

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0061] on page 21, with the following:

[0061] Paraffin-embedded specimens were sectioned at 4-6 microns, deparaffinized, and probed with fluorescein labeled DNA primers to tropoelastin (5'FGCCTGGTGCCCACT SEQ ID NO: 1 and 5'FTCCACCAAGGCCATA SEQ ID NO: 2) and stained with Fast Red stain. Paraffin-embedded specimens were sectioned at 4-6 microns, deparaffinized, and stained with antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphate and counterstained with Eosin stain. All procedures and analyses were done by blinded observers. High resolution digital micrographs of each preparation we obtained using a Diagnostic Instruments SPOT camera (Diagnostic Instruments, Sterling Heights, Mich.) as displayed on a Nikon E600 epifluorescence microscope with a plan-apochromat lenses. Images were analyzed using Image Pro Discovery software (Media Cybernetics, Silver Spring, Md.) to determine total cross-sectional tropoelastin content. Mean and standard error were assessed using Statview (Abacus Concepts, Berkeley, California), with comparison made using ANOVA repeated measure and significance determined at 95% with post-hoc testing using Fischer PLSD or Scheffe F-test.